


REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are now pending in the application. Applicant's invention is directed generally to a method for isolating faults in an optical path of an optical network through the use of partial regenerators. Of note, Applicant's method dithers an optical data signal at various points along an optical path using partial regenerators which are part of the network. Applicant maintains that Roberts fails to teach or suggest selectively dithering an optical data signal at various points along an optical path through the use of partial regenerators as a technique for isolating faults in the optical path. Pending claims have been amended to more clearly define this distinction. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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